



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
BOARD OF ARCHITECTS

IN THE MATTER OF THE SUSPENSION
OR REVOCATION OF THE LICENSE OF

STEVEN BIEGEL
License No. AI 013293

TO PRACTICE ARCHITECTURE
IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Administrative Action

FINAL ORDER
OF DISCIPLINE

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Architects upon receipt of information which the board has reviewed and on which the following findings of fact and conclusions of law are made.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Respondent is a licensed architect in the State of New Jersey and has been a licensee at all times relevant hereto. His home address is 3800 Club Drive, Chevy Chase, MD 20815.

2. Respondent was the subject of a Judgment in a Criminal Case entered on December 6, 2001 by the United States District Court for the District of Columbia (Case No. 01-283-1). Specifically, he pled guilty to one count of mail fraud and aiding and abetting, 18 U.S.C. 1341 and 2; date of offense was February 1999.

3. The facts underlying the conviction involved primarily mailing a forged check payable to Electronic Systems, his personal checking account, on or about March 13, 1998

from the Paramus office of his employer, the architectural firm of URS Greiner, Inc., to the firm's Washington, D.C. office.

4. At the time of the loss, licensee Biegel was Director of Operations for Greiner's Washington office, responsible for its financial performance. He served as the Project Manager for a \$1.3 million dollar contract (signed January 13, 1993) with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers covering renovation of the Pentagon basement. Subsequently, he negotiated change orders with the government agency which raised the potential cost to more than \$41 million dollars.

5. The sentence imposed on Mr. Biegel on December 7, 2001 was a prison term of 12 months and one day, which would terminate on December 7, 2002; plus supervised release conditions including probation for three years, 50 hours of community service and a fine of \$10,000. He also fully paid restitution of \$69,000.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The above conviction provides grounds for the suspension of Respondent's license to practice architecture in New Jersey pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(f) in that it is based on a criminal conviction which involves moral turpitude and relates adversely to the practice of architecture.

2. Based on the foregoing findings and conclusions, a Provisional Order of Discipline ("POD") was entered by this Board on April 25, 2002 and thereafter served upon Respondent at his address of record by regular and certified mail.

3. The Respondent provided a response dated May 23, 2002 where he did not object to the POD, but had several requests. The Respondent's first request was to remove in the POD the sentence "[h]e may not leave the District of Columbia without

permission of the Court or probation officer". The Board continues to rely upon the Judgment of Conviction which contains that language. However, the Board has removed that sentence in the FOD at the Respondent's request. The Respondent's second request was to add that his \$10,000.00 fine was paid in full on February 18, 2002 since the POD stated that restitution in the amount of \$69,000.00 was paid. The Board notes that the Judgment of Conviction specifically states that the restitution was paid, but not the fine. Therefore, the Board declines to add that the \$10,000.00 fine was paid. Respondent's final request was that a specific time period for the suspension of his license be set in the Final Order. However, the Board believes that suspending Respondent's license until such time as he can demonstrate full compliance with the criminal sentence, including the period of supervised release, is specific enough.

4. After reviewing Respondent's submission to the Board, the Board determined that further proceedings were not necessary and that no material discrepancy had been raised. The Respondent does not dispute the findings of fact or conclusions of law as set forth in the Provisional Order of Discipline.

ACCORDINGLY, IT IS on this 11th day of July, 2002 ORDERED that:

1. Respondent's license to practice Architecture in the State of New Jersey be and hereby is suspended until such time as he can demonstrate full compliance with the criminal sentence, including the period of supervised release.

2. Prior to resuming active practice in New Jersey, Respondent shall be required to appear before the Board (or committee thereof) to demonstrate satisfactory compliance with the criminal sentence and fitness to resume practice. Any practice in this State prior to formal reinstatement of license by the Board shall constitute grounds for a

charge of unlicensed practice. In addition, the Board reserves the right to place restrictions on Respondent's practice should his license be reinstated.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD
OF ARCHITECTURE

By: *Frederick Kniesler Jr*
FREDERICK KNIESLER, JR.
Board President